

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00

AGR-05 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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R 231115Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2613

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2796

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR AID; NAIROBI FOR REDSO

AF/E FOR AMBASSADOR BREWER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, PFOR, EGEN, EAID, EFIN SU

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVES BASIC WORK PROGRAM

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 2763 (NOTAL) (B) KHARTOUM 2749

(C) KHARTOUM 2750

SUMMARY: GOS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT REGULAR CABINET MEETING SEPTEMBER 20 APPROVED MAJOR ONE YEAR WORK PROGRAM WHICH SETS OUT IN SOME DETAIL PRIORITY ASSIGNMENTS FOR EACH MINISTRY. MOST IMPORTANT AREAS COVERED ARE IN ECONOMIC AREA ALTHOUGH CULTURAL, SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS MENTIONED AS WELL. WORK PROGRAM TIMED SO THAT GOS CAN REPORT ON STATUS OF ITS ACTIVITIES AT SSU CONFERENCE EARLY NEXT YEAR. IN FINANCIAL AREA PROGRAM SEEMS TO REFLECT GROWING
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AWARENESS THAT GOS PERFORMANCE WILL BE WATCHED

CAREFULLY BY THOSE PLANNING ON PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

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1. UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER RASHID EL-TAHER GOS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSED AND APPROVED MAJOR WORK PROGRAM AT REGULAR MEETING HERE SEPTEMBER 20. PRIMARY EMPHASIS WAS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH WORK PROGRAM COVERS NEXT YEAR, IT ALSO TIMED SO THAT GOS CAN REPORT ON STATUS OF ITS ACTIVITIES AT SECOND SSU CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE HELD EARLY NEXT YEAR. IN THIS CONNECTION FIRST ITEM IN WORK PROGRAM, AS REPORTED BY SUDAN NEWS AGENCY, IS THAT NEW SIX YEAR PLAN SHOULD BE READY FOR SSU CONFERENCE.

2. FIRST AREA DISCUSSED AND PRESUMABLY OF HIGHEST PRIORITY IS FINANCIAL AFFAIRS. MINISTRY OF FINANCE INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE PROPOSALS WHICH WILL CUT WASTE IN GOS, REDUCE EXPENDITURES AND INCREASE TAX COLLECTIONS. IN ADDITION, MINISTRY URGED TO REVIEW FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUDGET TO MINIMIZE ITS DEFICIT AND TO PRESENT AN AMENDED FY 77 BUDGET AND SPECIFICALLY TO ATTACK BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM. MINISTRY OF FINANCE ALSO WILL PROMOTE PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNITS. IT WILL ESTABLISH PROVINCIAL UNITS, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENTING SIX YEAR PLAN TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SSU CONFERENCE AND WILL REVIEW FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

3. OTHER ECONOMIC MINISTRIES ALSO GIVEN URGENT INSTRUCTIONS. EMPHASIS PLACED ON EXPANDING TRADE AND IMPROVING MARKETING OF LOCALLY PRODUCED GOODS AS WELL AS ASSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF KEY COMMODITIES. MINISTER OF TRADE HAS BEEN TOLD TO LOOK INTO PROSPECTS FOR BARTER TRADE. MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY IS INSTRUCTED TO KEEP MOVING ON VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AND TO

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REPORT ON PROGRESS OF OIL AND OTHER MINING ACTIVITIES. SIMILARLY APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES HAVE BEEN TOLD TO SURVEY, REPORT ON OR OTHERWISE KEEP WORKING URGENTLY ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC WORKS.

4. WORK PROGRAM PICKS UP THEME EXPRESSED IN RECENT POLICY SPEECHES THAT EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO

DECENTRALIZE GOVERNMENT AND PROVIDE MORE POWER TO
MASSES AT LOCAL LEVEL. MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSIGNED THIS TASK AS WELL AS TO EXPAND ROLE OF HOUSING
AND OTHER COOPERATIVES AND TO IMPROVE SECURITY AT
LOCAL LEVEL. REPORT ALSO COVERS EDUCATION, CULTURAL
AND COMMUNICATIONS AREAS WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON
EXPANSION OF TELEVISION IN SUDAN.

5. WORK PROGRAM LEAVES DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY
TO END WHERE THESE SUBJECTS ARE COVERED ONLY
BRIEFLY. NEVERTHELESS, RECENT DEFENSE PACT WITH
EGYPT AND VERY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND SAUDI
ARABIA CITED AS BASIC ELEMENTS OF SUDANESE POLICY.
POLICY DOCUMENT INDICATES THAT GOOD RELATIONS WITH
SUDAN'S NEIGHBORS AND WITH EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES ARE
DESIRED, AND IT SPECIFICALLY CALLS FOR EXPANSION OF
COOPERATION WITH US AND EEC COUNTRIES.
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6. COMMENT: NEW ONE YEAR WORK PROGRAM, APART FROM
ITS OBVIOUS FUNCTION OF TRYING TO ESTABLISH AN AGENDA
AND PRIORITIES OVER NEXT YEAR, APPEARS TO SERVE TWO
IMPORTANT PURPOSES. IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL TERMS,
ESPECIALLY IN MANNER IT REPORTED IN PRESS, IT SHOWS
NEW PRIME MINISTER TO BE BUSINESSLIKE ADMINISTRATOR
WHO IS TRYING TO PULL VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF GOS TOGETHER
MORE TIGHTLY. EVEN BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT OF WORK
PROGRAM RASHID HAD BEEN MEETING WITH VARIOUS MINISTERS
AND IMPRESSION GIVEN WAS THAT SERIOUS AND CAREFUL
ATTEMPT BEING MADE TO GET COUNTRY MOVING ON URGENT
PROBLEMS. SECOND PURPOSE, WE THINK, IS TO RESPOND TO
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TOUGH RECOMMENDATIONS OF IMF (SEE REF A). CLEARLY GOS
RECOGNIZES NEED TO TRY AT LEAST TO TACKLE DIFFICULT
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND OTHER MONETARY PROBLEMS.
WITH NOVEMBER AID DONORS CONFERENCE AROUND CORNER
AND SSU CONFERENCE HERE IN JANUARY PRESSURE WILL BE
ON GOS MINISTRIES TO PRODUCE RESULTS.
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